

The Advocate has been recognized as the official organ of this district of the Alliance, which comprises Jefferson, Jackson and Shawnee counties and will soon embrace two more eastern counties. You will find in its pages all important Alliance news. Also a space devoted to the actions of the Farmers' Federation of the Mississippi Valley; and all about the great wheat growers' convention to be held at St. Louis October 23rd. —Subscribe now and keep posted on all matters of Alliance and Federation.

At the special meeting of the County Alliance at Oskaloosa on Wednesday last P. M. Gilbert of Grantville was elected county trustee stockholder of the State Exchange for the ensuing year. There was a general discussion of matters of interest but no further business was transacted.

HO! TO THE FAIR.

Excursion Trains from Meriden.

The Union Pacific will run trains Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 19th, 20th and 21st inst to the state Fair. Trains will leave Meriden early in the morning, returning in the evening from Topeka.

STATE FAIR.

The State fair throws its gates open next week. If there is any one who has not decided to go let us say to that person that a treat will be missed always to be regretted. The display will surpass anything ever seen in the way of an agricultural show in the west. Let every farmer attend and gain inspiration and encouragement from viewing the wonderful resources of our state. Don't miss it whatever you do.

ALLIANCE RALLY

The Alliance of Jefferson county in conjunction with all the farmers laborers and friends of the Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, will hold a grand picnic at Valley Falls, about the middle of Oct. exact date will be fixed at district meeting on Saturday, Sept. 21st, at which time the necessary committees will be appointed on grounds and general arrangements.

Speakers will be secured and reported in due time. All Sub-Alliances in the county are respectfully requested to assist in making this a grand success. Everybody and his wife, sons and daughters are invited.

W. W. HUDKINS.

THE MERIDEN CREAMERY.

In pursuance of the call published in the Advocate a meeting was held at Gardner's hall on Thursday evening to adopt preliminary means for the building a creamery in this place. The following were appointed a corresponding and investigating committee to ascertain cost of building, machinery, etc. W. H. Wood, C. F. Scheppele and Geo. W. Priest. The following were appointed to devise plans and solicit stock.

Walter N. Allen, chairman, Albert Owen, W. W. Hudkins, S. S. Walker, J. M. Puderbaugh, J. M. Kious, James Dooley, C. D. Shields, J. M. Huber, W. R. Taggart, Mich West. A meeting of the committee is called for Saturday Sept 14th. at 3 o'clock p. m. The meeting adjourned to Monday evening Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

AN ADDRESS.

Reply of the State Alliance to the Address of the State Assembly of the Knights of Labor.

To the Officers and Members of the Kansas State Assembly of the Knights of Labor:

The address to the State Farmers' Alliance presented by Messrs. John Davis, H. H. Hutcheson, and W. E. Henderson your committee appointed for that purpose, was read before that body on Aug 15, 1889, after which a resolution was passed reciprocating the fraternal feeling manifested and instructing the undersigned to make reply. The responsibility thus imposed upon me of trying to bring about a better understanding and more intimate relations between the important classes of society which we represent, and the difficulty of representing a class so numerous, yet so isolated as the farmers, a class that has done but little heretofore in the matter of co-operation, that lacks so greatly in sociability and in interchanging views on subjects of ever vital and mutual importance, and that embraces so many individuals that perhaps fail to get clear and definite views on these subjects, cause me to feel a reluctance in undertaking this important duty. Hoping however to do something towards promoting the work so auspiciously begun, by expressing the sentiments of one who has been directly interested in farming all his life and who has endeavored to obtain the views of intelligent farmers, this work is modestly undertaken, trusting that the brethren will be charitable in their criticisms.

May the time soon come when there will be harmony and co-operation among the producers of the wealth of the country, when a more just distribution of the products of labor shall have caused the elevation of the toiling masses to a better condition mentally, morally, socially and financially, when poverty and crime shall be greatly diminished, society freed from the aristocracy of wealth, and intelligence, integrity and industry be the pass word into good society.

The accomplishment of the grand work before us requires, first, the united, harmonious, vigorous and persevering efforts of all concerned. Second, that truth and justice be the foundation upon which we build, such wisdom prevailing that the labor of each successive day and year add to a continuous development till the complete structure in all its strength and beauty crowns our efforts, the joy and pride of the builders and the admiration of the world.

The present condition of the producing classes financial and otherwise should be sufficient to cause vigorous action; the overworked farmers selling many of their products below the cost of production to the speculator and unable to procure in return, in quantity sufficient for happiness, or comfort even, the products of the factory or of the mine, or to retain, in many cases, a sufficiency of the products of the farm; the wage worker idle, or half employed, unable to purchase, except to a very limited extent, the beef or products of the farm, or of other industries, as is the case with the farmer, in the midst of abundance finds himself in want. The necessities of life are obtained with difficulty the

comforts of life become luxuries, while luxuries are things to be looked upon but not to be enjoyed. Surely agitators are not needed to arouse such people to action. It should only be necessary that some proper way be opened up in which to act.

To obtain persevering action it seems necessary that some degree of success attend our efforts at the outset and that wise plans for the future which will meet the approval of the masses and sustain their hope be devised. To this end it would seem best that suitable persons from each of the industrial Orders be selected to meet and discuss the matter of co-operation and to devise methods for co-operating in all matters for the common good so far as practicable and desirable, extending this work from time to time as fast as circumstances will permit.

Here great difficulties would arise. It would tax the wisdom of the committees to the utmost to secure united harmonious action of the people in all lines in which they should co-operate, and to such action must we look for a satisfactory degree of success. You suggest co-operation in commercial matters and in the use of the ballot. These are undoubtedly the main lines in which our efforts would be combined and probably the only ones to discuss here.

We can certainly agree on this; that there should be an exchange of the products of labor free from the manipulations of the speculating class and from the dictation and exactions of trusts. No doubt plans could be devised by a joint committee from the different Orders whereby a more direct interchange of commodities could be effected, thereby dispensing with the services of such middlemen as may be found to be unnecessary and whose support may be burdensome, and perverting the evils of speculating and gambling, and breaking the power of trusts. The benefits thus derived by all industrial classes from the enhanced price of their products and the lower price of the commodities purchased from others would so stimulate consumption and consequently production that speculators and gamblers deprived of their present means of support would find ready employment as producers and thus be elevated from their present degraded situation of dependents upon the laboring classes for the wealth which they enjoy and of being leeches upon society.

The securing of co-operation among the industrial classes in commercial matters would be a comparatively easy matter, the desirability and the necessity, even being so apparent. The plans readily comprehended and the benefits so speedily realized; but when we attempt to trace out the causes that have brought about the present distressed condition, to point out the policies of the government that have produced evil results, to declare the true principles of political economy and what legislation would secure a just distribution of wealth as it is produced, we undertake a task almost hopeless as far as securing unanimity of sentiment and action is concerned when viewed in the light of the past. A consideration of the necessity of accomplishing this work should prevent discouragement. Other relief would

be temporary, only. The elevation of the wealth producers to the rank which is properly theirs, depends largely upon the enactment and enforcement of suitable and proper laws. We can hardly expect to accomplish this without acting upon a fundamental principle common to both the Knights of Labor and the Farmers' Alliance, viz: the education of the masses. This education can best be secured by co-operation, by organizing, and discussing all questions of common interest with a view to uniting on a basis of truth when discovered. The founders of the Alliance while laying down education as the first plank in their platform of principles, foreseeing the difficulty of uniting the masses having such diversity of employments, personal interests, tastes and prejudices, laid down this second plank viz: "In things essential, unity; in all things, charity." Here we believe to be the key to success in our efforts. A grand union of all in all things admitted to be for the common good and a throwing of the mantle of charity over our discussion of the questions in which our ignorance, selfishness, or prejudices prevent our agreeing. Only by acting on this principle can we hope to speedily and satisfactorily solve the social and political questions of the day. The proper application of these principles would remove the difficulties from the questions of land labor, capital, transportation currency interest, tariff, etc., The industrial classes being so greatly in the majority, the carrying out of these two principles would enable them to control the entire political action of the country; but it is a question whether the people who make up a great part of the old political parties, and who permit bribery, fraud and other corrupt practices from the primaries up, could, at present, establish a new party that would bring about such a reform as would accomplish the desired results.

To overcome the difficulties before them those enlisted in our grand cause should be endowed with an abundance of patience, perseverance and pluck, and have an abiding faith in the final triumph of truth.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again; the eternal years of God are hers." Let us not forget that truth and justice must be the basis on which we build; that the time is past for settling questions of right and wrong by brute force; that the willful destruction of life and property in our efforts to better our condition is unnecessary, not in harmony with the enlightenment of the age in which we live and repugnant to the intelligence and moral part of the people.

Hoping that the friendly relations now existing between our Orders may be extended and strengthened, I suggest that a committee of three from each Order to be appointed by the State Master Workman of the Knights of Labor and the President of the State Farmers' Alliance meet at such time and place as those appointing may direct to take into consideration the best interests of both Orders and to make such recommendations as they may deem best.

Fraternally,

A. E. DICKERSON, C. U. A.
Loc. States Farmers' Alliance

Meriden, Kan. {
Sept. 6 '89. }